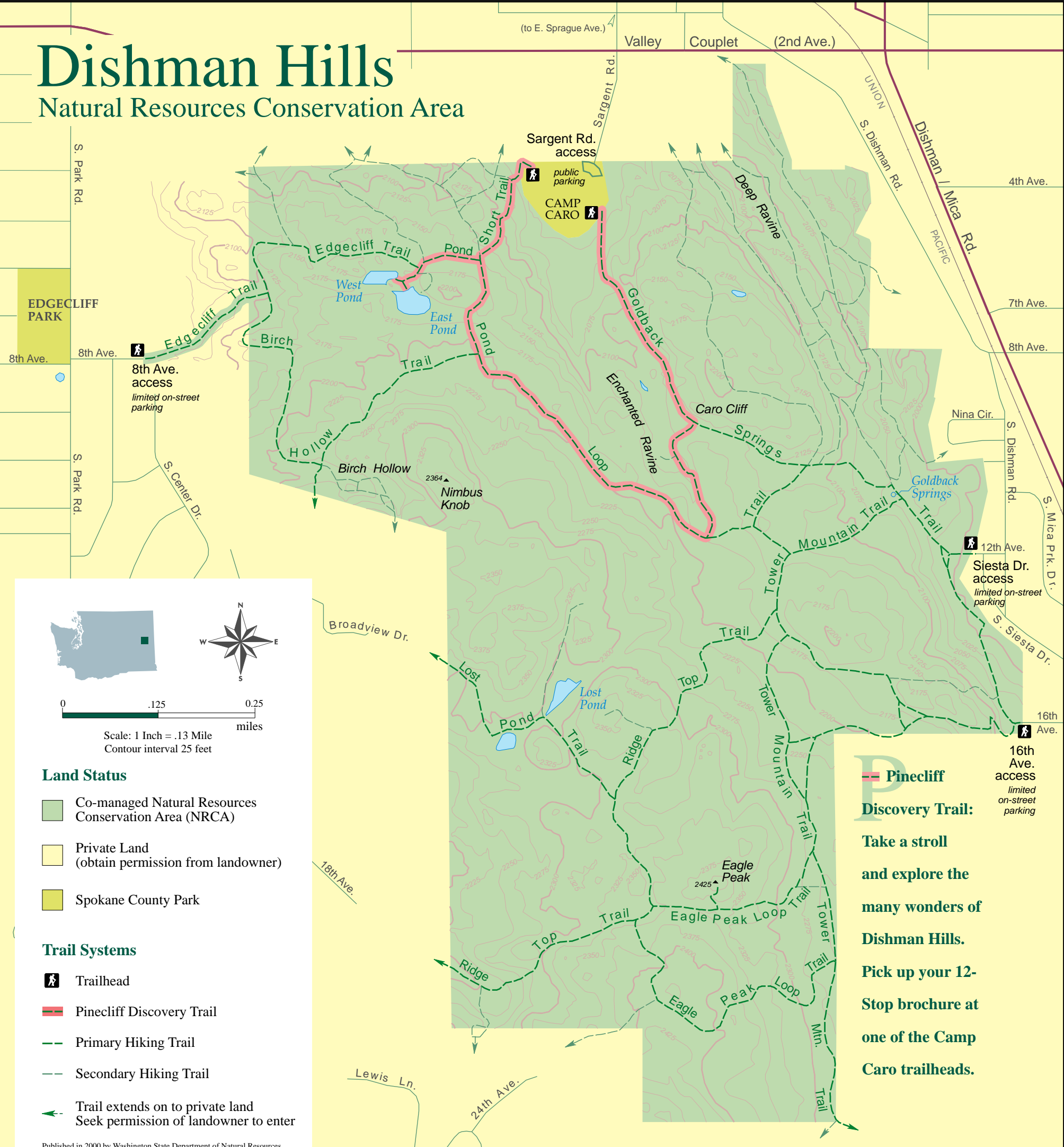


# Dishman Hills

## Natural Resources Conservation Area



0 .125 0.25  
miles  
Scale: 1 Inch = .13 Mile  
Contour interval 25 feet

### Land Status

- Co-managed Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA)
- Private Land (obtain permission from landowner)
- Spokane County Park

### Trail Systems

- Trailhead
- Pinecliff Discovery Trail
- Primary Hiking Trail
- Secondary Hiking Trail
- Trail extends on to private land  
Seek permission of landowner to enter

Published in 2000 by Washington State Department of Natural Resources.  
Map produced by Lands and Resources Division, Public Use and Engineering Division, Resource Mapping Cartography.  
Data from DNR GIS, DNR Northeast Region, and other available sources.

**Pinecliff**  
**Discovery Trail:**  
**Take a stroll**  
**and explore the**  
**many wonders of**  
**Dishman Hills.**  
**Pick up your 12-**  
**Stop brochure at**  
**one of the Camp**  
**Caro trailheads.**

### Trail Information

#### Goldback Springs Trail

0.7 mi.- Climbs along east side of rocky canyon past Caro Cliff, then descends to Goldback Springs ending on Siesta Dr.; connects with Pond Loop and Tower Mountain trails.

#### Lost Pond Trail

0.4 mi.- Starts at junction with Ridge Top Trail and continues out of west side of the NRCA, connecting with Broadview Drive through private land; ponds are dry during late summer and fall.

#### Pond Loop Trail

0.7 mi.- Less steep, but longer trail from Camp Caro to East and West ponds; try Enchanted Ravine cutoff for extra scenery; some good vistas of the Spokane Valley; makes a nice 1.5 mi. loop with Goldback Springs and Pond Short trails.

#### Edgecliff Trail

0.5 mi.- Follows old road from 8th Ave. trailhead to East and West ponds; connecting with Pond Short and Birch Hollow trails.

#### Birch Hollow Trail

0.6 mi.- Follows old trail up to Birch Hollow, then trail connects with Pond Loop Trail; check out beautiful Birch Hollow on secondary trails.

#### Tower Mountain Trail

0.9 mi.- Ventures to SE corner of NRCA then continues on private land up east side of ridge towards Tower Mtn., 4.5 miles south; access via Goldback Springs Trail at springs or use cutoffs through Goldback Springs and Pond Loop trails.

#### Ridge Top Trail

0.9 mi.- Starts at junction with Tower Mountain Trail and climbs steeply up to top of ridge; connecting with Lost Pond Trail and the top of Eagle Peak Loop Trail; exits to 18th Ave. on SW side of NRCA through private land.

#### Pond Short Trail

0.3 mi.- Direct route to East and West ponds from Camp Caro; steep and rocky in places; connects with Edgecliff and Pond Loop trails; makes grand tour loop of 2.1 mi. by connecting with Edgecliff, Birch Hollow, and Pond Loop trails, then Goldback Springs Trail.

#### Eagle Peak Loop Trail

0.7 mi.- Starts at junction with Tower Mountain or Ridge Top Trails, and has a short spur that leads to the top of Eagle Peak with a beautiful vista to the east and north; south section of loop follows old road.

**Note: Please seek landowners' permission to go on private land.**



# Welcome

## to the Dishman Hills Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA)

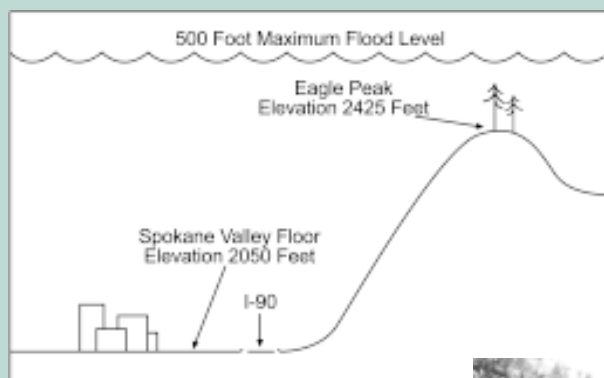


Dishman Hills Natural Resources Conservation Area is 530 acres (and growing) of dramatically sculpted rocky hills and ponds with areas of grasses and mixed pine and fir forest. Dishman Hills has been protected as a natural area for over 30 years. Although now just a sample of the past, its landscape is characteristic of parts of the Spokane Valley before Euro-American pioneer settlement.

Beginning in 1966, land was purchased and donated to protect the hills from urban sprawl and development. Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the non-profit Dishman Hills Natural Area Association are partner stewards of the hills.

## GEOLOGY


Dishman Hills bedrock dates back 1.5 billion years comprising some of the oldest rock in Washington. It can be recognized as well-layered rock in the hills. Sandwiched within these layers are light-colored quartz-rich layers. About 70 million years ago, volcanic magma, from the earth's hot mantle just below the continental crust, pushed upward into the fractures of the bedrock and eventually cooled to form the erosion-resistant granite outcropping of the Dishman Hills area.



About 12,000 to 15,000 years ago, these landforms were shaped by massive Glacial Age floods. Geologists have determined that thick glacial ice dammed up a huge lake to the east, called Lake Missoula. As the climate warmed, the dam of ice repeatedly failed over the course of several thousand years, each time catastrophically draining the lake. Dishman Hills was in the path of the rushing 500-foot-deep wall of flood waters that scoured the Spokane Valley.

The rocky pothole-poxed hills have ponds, ridges and gullies that support grassland areas and ponderosa pine forest communities.

## ECOLOGY

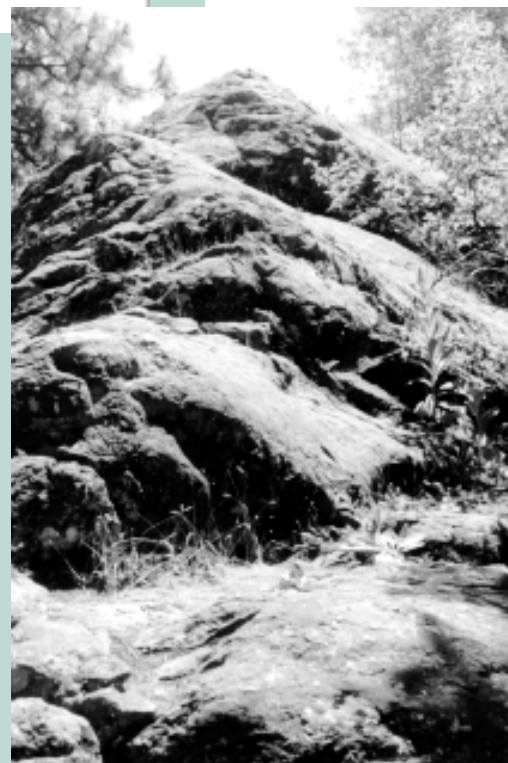


Dishman Hills Natural Resources Conservation Area is one of the most biologically diverse areas of the state. It is a transition area between forest, grassland, and shrubland zones. Its geology combined with the climatic conditions has helped to form unique plant communities that include members from the above mentioned zones.

About 18 to 22 inches of precipitation fall each year. Moisture is held in the shallow soils and cracks of the rugged rocks, supporting a diverse mix of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, cottonwood, and plants such as oceanspray, Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass and moss. Dishman Hills' seven plant communities offer 300 flowering

plants, 73 species of mushrooms, and many lichens and ferns. Winter and spring rains run off the frozen ground and into pothole ponds, a vital water source for wetland plants and a wide variety of animals.

Walking or sitting quietly can reveal wildlife. These include coyotes, weasels, squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, porcupines, white-tailed deer, hawks, ruffed grouse, pheasants and more than 50 species of butterflies.







## EXPLORE AND ENJOY

Natural Resources Conservation Areas are selected to protect their outstanding scenic value and native habitats of endangered, threatened and sensitive plants and animals. These areas offer educational opportunities for low-impact public use compatible with the protection of the resources.

Dishman Hills has diverse habitats and is a great place to explore and learn about nature.

**The following activities are encouraged:**

- ☐ Hiking
- ☐ Jogging
- ☐ Sight seeing on existing trails
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Bird watching

Environmental education teachers and group leaders call (509) 684-7474 for more information.

To protect the area for present and future use, **the following activities are not allowed:**

- ☐ Bicycling
- ☐ Target practice
- ☐ Horseback riding
- ☐ Rock hounding
- ☐ Hunting and fishing
- ☐ Paintball tag
- ☐ Motorized vehicles
- ☐ Unleashed dogs

\* Please pack out what you take in. \*

**THANK YOU**

## FOR MORE INFO

**Spokane County Parks & Recreation**  
(509) 456-4730

**Washington State Department of  
Natural Resources, Northeast Region**  
(509) 684-7474  
[www.wadnr.gov](http://www.wadnr.gov)

**Dishman Hills Association** (To learn how  
you can support the Dishman Hills NRCA)  
(509) 747-8147

[www.sd81.k12.wa.us/Regal/DishmanHills/56Dhill.htm](http://www.sd81.k12.wa.us/Regal/DishmanHills/56Dhill.htm)

This website was designed by 5th and 6th  
Graders at Regal Elementary.



**SPOKANE COUNTY**

Parks and Recreation Department



**Dishman Hills**  
Natural Area Association



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

## Dishman Hills



**Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Area**